

**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN**

**FOR**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009**

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – NOVEMBER 8, 2009

# Saint Alphonsus

## Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

Phone: 724-274-5084 • Fax: 724-274-7035 • e-mail: [stalphonsus@verizon.net](mailto:stalphonsus@verizon.net)

Web Page Address: [www.stalphonsuschurch.com](http://www.stalphonsuschurch.com)

Administrator: Rev. George E. Saladna, S.T.L., S.S.L.

Weekend Assistant: Rev. James P. McDonough, S.T.L., J.C.L



*Parish Established September 9, 1901*

*Church Dedicated September 5, 1926*

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY MASS:** Sat. 5:00 P.M. and Sun. Morn. at 8:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

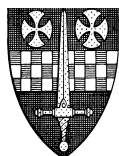
**WEEKDAY:** Mass held in Chapel next to Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is not held every day (never on Sat morn).

**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:** these days vary in time and obligation from year to year. See bulletin or call Rectory each time for details.

**CONFESSIONS:** Sat. from 3:30 to 4:30, and anytime by appointment.

**MARRIAGE, BAPTISM:** call parish office (six months before marriage).

**COMMUNION CALLS AND OTHER SERVICES:** call office for information.



**New Parishioners:** We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or have your telephone or address changed. Thank you.

**Church Hall Telephone:** ..... (724) 274-2547

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline** ..... 1-888-808-1235

### PARISH OFFICES & STAFF

**ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER (RECTORY:** former Convent building)

(724) 274-5084

Marsha Etzrodt, Secretary

**Office Hours:** Mon. - Thur.: 8 to 4, Fri.: 8 to Noon

**LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES** (school building side entrance)

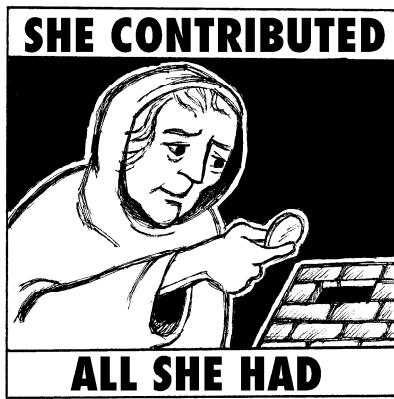
(724) 274-2547

**CCD & Youth Min.** - Karen Mueller

**Social Services** - Cathy Moxie

**Music Director/Organist** – Vickie Roof

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
PITTSBURGH  
VICARIATE  
NO. 4



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In today's Mass, the Gospel message, from Saint Mark, is about the "Widow's Mite," the poor widow who put two small coins, just a few pennies, in the collection box at the temple.

We often speak of "putting in our two cents worth," and by this we usually mean that our contribution is next to nothing, practically worthless, whether it be our financial contribution to some cause, or our ideas in a debate, or our participation in some other project involving a lot of other people.

However, the sense of today's story about the widow is just the opposite. She is praised not because she gave so little, but rather because she gave everything. All the others who contributed to the treasury gave from their surplus wealth, from their "extra money." But the widow in today's Gospel gave all she had, her every cent, everything she had to live on.

Thus, it is ironic to hear someone say that they are like the "poor widow" when they contribute a few bucks to something. If they were really like the widow and wanted to use her for comparison, they would be giving more. They would be giving everything.

Giving is relative, as are most things in life. God judges us not so much on the results of what we do but rather by the effort we put into our work, and by the motivation which animates our effort.

We should never decide what we will give to God based on our judgment of what God has and what God needs, for God has everything and needs nothing. We should focus on what we have, and especially the fact that everything we have comes from our good God in the first place. This is the essence of sacrifice: giving to the Lord, our Creator, "from the top of the pile," as our way of giving thanks for our existence and everything we have.

We can imitate the widow of today's Gospel when our gift is a true sacrifice: something which "hurts" us (takes away from us) when we give it back to the giver of all gifts.

-- Father Saladna

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9** – Dedication of the Pope's Basilica

8:00 AM Andrew Chlodney

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10** -- St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor

8:00 AM Mike Nemcik

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11** – St. Martin of Tours, Bishop (Veteran's Day)

8:00 AM Panowicz/Kosobucki Families

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12** -- **No Mass scheduled for today**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13** – Mother Cabrini

8:00 AM Mary Pulliam

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14** – **No Mass on Saturday morning**

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Leontina Marchsani

**NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15** – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

11:00 AM Joseph Bosman (Anniv.)

**REST IN PEACE** -- The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Father Joseph Kopecky. Please remember Father Kopecky and his family in your prayers.

Following is a prayer by Father Joseph Kopecky which he composed and sent to his loving sister, Marie Kopecky Jack, when she asked him to pray for her special intention.

Stand by us, O Lord God, with your Holy Angels. By the armor of your heavenly Light, teach us (each day) how to trust in you. Be our Refuge and our Guide. May the radiance of your Divine Love scatter the darkness and gloom of our hearts and minds. In your Fatherly forgiveness bathe us all – despite our short comings – in humble understanding. Renew us daily in our desire and yearning for the peace that heals, restores and rejoices. We so pray for ourselves and all our fellow pilgrims.

- Father Joseph Kopecky

**OUR BELOVED DEAD** – We think and pray for them all the time, but in a very special way on **ALL SOULS DAY** and throughout the month of November. We have a special book, inscribed "**OUR BELOVED DEAD**," in the Church lobby, and we ask you to sign the names of your deceased relatives, friends, neighbors and parishioners whom you wish to be remembered throughout the month of November. This book will be found in the Lobby and will remain there through the end of November.

**THOSE WHO ARE SICK AT HOME** and unable to attend Mass are invited to call the Rectory to arrange to receive Holy Communion at home. Also, people who are having major surgery and who know of this in advance should be anointed. Fr. Saladna will be happy to arrange for this to be done either in our own Church or at your home, since hospital stays are so brief and so hectic that it is almost impossible at times to have this done in the hospital with due privacy.

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**TURKEY VOUCHERS** will be found in the **ACTIVITY ROOM** and in the **CHURCH VESTIBULE**. Through these envelopes you are invited to share in our outreach to the poor and needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Any donation you give through these voucher envelopes, which you can place in the collection basket at any time, will be used to provide assistance through the Community Food Bank and our own **PARISH SOCIAL SERVICES** outreach. Thank you for your assistance to the poor and needy of our own parish and local community.

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**DECEMBER "VACATION SWEEPSTAKES"** -- we encourage you to participate. Basically, the Sweepstakes helps us raise money to help finance our Social Services. The Sweepstakes gives you an opportunity to make a donation to this worthy cause of the Church, to have a chance in doing so of winning a prize, and to support the particular goals of other Catholic Parishes and Institutions that join us in the Sweepstakes. Thank you.

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**HOLIDAY DECORATION OFFERING ENVELOPES** -- In your envelope packets you will find the traditional envelope for Holiday Decorations, with a place to mark the name of someone you would like to remember by your offering. Our special Christmas Day bulletin insert for December 25 will contain the names of these "memorials." In order to be published, they must be received here no later than Friday, December 18. Please mark the names clearly (print rather than script).

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**OPLATKY** (Christmas Wafers) will be available through the Ladies of Charity beginning the weekend of November 28/29 all the way through December 24. Available in the Activity Room, \$5.00 for a colorful packet of 10 wafers. Available also from Marsha at the Parish Office during her hours (see bulletin cover).



**GIFT TREE** -- On Thursday, November 26, the **"GIFT TREE"** will be placed in the Church Lobby. We invite you to take a tag or tags from the

tree in order to purchase a Christmas gift for some needy person, known either through our Social Services or through the Food Bank. Tags will tell about some anonymous person who would love to receive a gift: the age, size, gender, etc. Your gift should be returned to the Vestibule of the Church on or before Sunday, December 13<sup>TH</sup>, so it can be given to the recipient in time for Christmas. Someone, known only to them and to God, will be delighted by the "secret gift" you will have provided for them. Thank you.

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**ENTERTAINMENT DISCOUNT/COUPON BOOKS** for 2010 are being sold by the Parish Social Services (Ladies of Charity). They are available at \$20 after Sunday Mass in the Activity Room, or at the Parish House during office hours. There is a limited number for sale this year, so if you are really interested it would be wise to get them early. Proceeds from the sale go toward the works of the Ladies of Charity.

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## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**YOUTH MINISTRY MEETING** today after the 8 AM Mass. Come discuss your faith, learn about upcoming social events and eat some delicious waffles.

**ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH:** Join St. Alphonsus Catholic Youth Ministry for a night of fun at Funfest on Friday, November 27, from 11 PM to 2 AM. Bring your school ID, movie ticket stub or game ticket and the cost is only \$12. You must pre-register for this event. Registration and permission slips are available in the Activity Room. Deadline for registration is November 22<sup>ND</sup>. Any questions? Call or text Mrs. Mueller at 412-841-2017.

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**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND:** November 20-22 at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg. Are you exercising and dieting, jogging or swimming to stay fit and trim? What are you doing to keep your marriage in good shape? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held November 20-22 at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg. For more information or to register, contact Mary and Lou Locante at 412-635-7775 or check us out on the web at [wwme-pittsburgh.org](http://wwme-pittsburgh.org).

**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS****Tell Congress: Remove Abortion Funding & Mandates from Needed Health Care Reform**

Congress is preparing to debate health care reform legislation on the House and Senate floors. Genuine health care reform should protect the life and dignity of all people from the moment of conception until natural death. The U.S. bishops' conference has concluded that all committee approved bills are seriously deficient on the issues of abortion and conscience, and do not provide adequate access to health care for immigrants and the poor. The bills will have to change or the bishops have pledged to oppose them.

Our nation is at a crossroads. Policies adopted in health care reform will have an impact for good or ill for years to come. None of the bills retains longstanding current policies against abortion funding or abortion coverage mandates, and none fully protects conscience rights in health care.

As the U.S. bishops' letter of October 8 states: "No one should be required to pay for or participate in abortion. It is essential that the legislation clearly apply to this new program longstanding and widely supported federal restrictions on abortion funding and mandates, and protections for rights of conscience. No current bill meets this test.. If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found, we will have to oppose the health care bill vigorously."

For the full text of this letter and more information on proposed legislation and the bishops' advocacy for authentic health care reform, visit: [www.usccb.org/healthcare](http://www.usccb.org/healthcare).

Congressional leaders are attempting to put together final bills for floor consideration. Please contact your Representative and Senators today and urge them to fix these bills with the pro-life amendments noted below. Otherwise much needed health care reform will have to be opposed. Health care reform should be about saving lives, not destroying them.

**ACTION: Contact Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.**

- To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to [www.usccb.org/action](http://www.usccb.org/action).
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices.
- Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) & [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

**MESSAGE to SENATE:**

"During floor debate on the health care reform bill, please support an amendment to incorporate longstanding policies against abortion funding and in favor of conscience rights. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed."

**MESSAGE to HOUSE:**

"Please support the Stupak Amendment that addresses essential pro-life concerns on abortion funding and conscience rights in the health care reform bill. Help ensure that the Rule for the bill allows a vote on this amendment. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed."

**WHEN:** Both House and Senate are preparing for floor votes now. **Act today! Thank you!**

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**HEALTH CARE REFORM IS ABOUT SAVING LIVES,  
NOT DESTROYING THEM**

- Abortion is not health care because killing is not healing.
- For over 30 years, the Hyde Amendment and other longstanding and widely supported laws have prevented federal funding of elective abortions.
- Yet health care reform bills advancing in Congress violate this policy.
- Americans would be forced to subsidize abortions through their taxes and health insurance premiums.
- We need genuine health care reform – reform that helps save lives, not destroy them.

**TELL CONGRESS: "REMOVE ABORTION FUNDING AND MANDATES FROM NEEDED HEALTH CARE REFORM!"**

Visit [www.usccb.org/action](http://www.usccb.org/action) to send your e-mails today.

**SAINTLINESS IS THE BEST SERVICE TO OFFER OUR FELLOW MAN**

VATICAN CITY, 1 NOV 2009 - Before praying the Angelus today, Solemnity of All Saints, Benedict XVI recalled that this feast "invites the pilgrim Church on earth to enjoy a foretaste of the endless feast of the heavenly community, and to revive hope in eternal life".

Addressing the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father pointed out that "this year marks fourteen centuries since the Pantheon - one of the most ancient and famous of Roman monuments - was consecrated for Christian worship and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and all Martyrs. Subsequently the celebration of all martyrs was extended to all saints".

"In this Year for Priests", he went on, "I particularly wish to recall and venerate priest saints, both those the Church has canonized proposing them as an example of spiritual and pastoral values, and those - far more numerous - whose saintliness is known to the Lord".

Referring then to tomorrow's commemoration of All Souls Day, the Pope invited people "to live this moment in an authentic Christian spirit; in other words, in the light that comes from the Paschal mystery. Christ died and rose again, opening our way to the house of the Father, the Kingdom of life and peace".

"Thus, as we visit cemeteries, let us remember that only the mortal remains of our loved ones lie there in the tombs awaiting the final resurrection. Their souls - as Scripture says - are already 'in the hands of God'. And so the most appropriate and effective way to honor them is to pray for them, offering acts of faith, hope and charity".

The Pope also spoke of the communion of the saints, explaining that it "is a reality that gives a different dimension to all of our life. We are not alone! We are part of a spiritual 'company' in which profound solidarity reigns. The good of each individual brings advantage to everyone and, vice versa, shared happiness irradiates upon individuals. This is a mystery which, in some way, we can already experience in this world, in the family, in friendship, and especially in the spiritual community of the Church".

After praying the Angelus Benedict XVI recalled that ten years ago, on 31 October 1999, the World Lutheran Federation and the Catholic Church signed their Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. Something John Paul II described as "a milestone on the not easy path of recomposing full unity among Christians".

That document, to which the World Methodist Council adhered in 2006, enshrines "an agreement between Lutherans and Catholics on fundamental truths of the doctrine of justification, truths that lead to the very heart of the Gospel and to the essential questions of our lives. God listens to and redeems us; our lives are inscribed within the horizon of grace, they are guided by a merciful God Who forgives our sin and calls us to a new life, following His Son. We live in the grace of God and are called to respond to His gift; all this frees us from fear and gives us hope and courage in a world full of uncertainty, disquiet and suffering".

"My heartfelt hope is that this anniversary may help us to advance along the path towards the full and visible unity of all Christ's disciples", said the Pope.

Finally, the Holy Father greeted pilgrims in various languages, inviting them "to follow joyfully in Christ's footsteps, molding yourselves to His image and being obedient in all to the will of the Father. Do not be afraid to be saints! It is the best service you can offer to your brothers and sisters".

- Vatican Information Service  
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<b>Your Ministry of Support</b>	
Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish For Sunday, November 1, 2009	
Offertory .....	\$6,502.00
Parish Share.....	\$760.00
<b>PLEASE REMEMBER ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH IN YOUR WILL</b>	

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** – this special collection (mainly) for Religious women (Sisters) will be taken up throughout the USA the weekend of November 21/ 22. It is our way of saying **THANKS** to the devoted nuns who taught in our school for 90 years, 1904 to 1995. In the church vestibule you will find a flyer describing this annual collection and the financial difficulties that the sisters face.